

OKINAWA MARINE

JANUARY 25, 2013

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Ospreys fly in Philippines



Maj. Joshua T. Fraser explains the capabilities of the MV-22B Osprey to members of the Philippine Air Force Jan. 23 at Antonio Bautista Air Base in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Republic of the Philippines. Three Ospreys conducted low-altitude flight training Jan. 23 over Palawan, marking the Marine Corps' first Osprey training in the Philippines. PAF members accompanied Marines on the flights and provided ground control support for the Marines. Fraser is the operations officer for Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by 1st Lt. Jeanscott Dodd

Tax centers open Feb. 4

Lance Cpl. Terence G. Brady

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Tax centers at Camps Foster and Hansen are scheduled to open Feb. 4 to provide free assistance with tax filing.

Tax centers will be located in building 2694 at Camp Hansen and building 5960 at Camp Foster.

"The current locations are a true benefit for status of forces agreement personnel, especially with the addition of the facility on Camp Hansen," said Capt. William C. Morrison, the legal assistance officer in charge of the legal support service section at Camp Foster. "Those who are located at the northern camps won't have to travel as far to get tax assistance now."

The tax center provides free tax advice, preparation and electronic filing to all SOFA personnel, retired military members, family members of personnel who died on active duty and family members of deceased retired military members.

The Marines at the tax centers are trained at multiple levels through the Internal Revenue Service before working on customers' taxes, including training on foreign tax considerations, according to Staff Sgt. Felix A. Lora, Camp Foster tax center staff non-commissioned officer in charge.

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Far East Division Matches commence

Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP SCHWAB — Marines with various III Marine Expeditionary Force units and Marine Corps Installations Pacific began the

first stages of the Far East Division Matches Jan. 18.

The FEDM is one of four division matches held annually throughout the Marine Corps. The primary objectives of the matches are to enhance marksmanship

proficiency and stimulate interest and desire for self improvement in marksmanship through the use of individual small arms to refine precision marksmanship skills through advanced marksmanship

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Campaign against distracted, impaired driving begins

Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — III Marine Expeditionary Force's and Marine Corps Installations Pacific's safety offices have joined forces with the provost marshal's office to implement the distracted and impaired driving campaign, which began Jan. 1

and continues until March 31 throughout Marine Corps installations on Okinawa.

The distracted and impaired driving campaign is part of III MEF and MCIPAC's continuous "Safety first, safety always" campaign, which highlights continuous, proactive safety programs throughout III MEF and MCIPAC.

"Distracted and impaired driving is the cause

of many vehicle mishaps in the states and here on Okinawa," said Lawrence J. Jacobs Jr., the safety director for MCIPAC and Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. "At MCIPAC and III MEF safety, as well as at PMO, we want everyone to fully understand the hazards associated with distracted and impaired driving in hopes of

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See **Source** inside for Whale Watching Tours!

Life-saving blood supplies depend on volunteer donors

Brian J. Davis

January is National Blood Donor Month, and the need for blood and blood products here in Okinawa and throughout the Asia-Pacific region is greater than ever.

The Department of Defense's Armed Services Blood Bank Center at Camp Lester is the primary source for blood products for U.S. personnel in U.S. Pacific Command's area of responsibility.

"The ASBBC provides blood products to support operational forces deployed throughout the region, as well as garrison forces, family

members, retirees and civilian personnel," said Douglas R. Kennedy, a blood donor recruiter with ASBBC. "The blood supplied by the center directly supports the health and welfare of over 189,000 people stationed in or deployed to the region that receive care at military treatment facilities."

The DOD's blood supply is not only used for the care of wounded service members but also can be used to save the life of a sick child or family member undergoing emergency surgery.

"In fact, one single blood donation can save three lives, since a single unit of blood is separated into red blood cells, plasma and platelets," said Kennedy.

The ASBBC frequently sends units of blood or blood products throughout the

region because maintaining an adequate blood supply is a constant challenge requiring volunteer donors.

The pool of available blood donors in Okinawa

is shrinking for a number of reasons, according to Kennedy. For example, some deployments will render a person ineligible to donate for a period of time. For that reason, it is more important than ever for eligible members of the community to take the time to donate.

To be an eligible donor, an individual must meet the following criteria:

- Hold a DOD ID card
- Weigh at least 110 pounds
- Be at least 17 years of age for parental release
- Be well hydrated and have been feeling well for at least three days
- Meet the 57-day interval since their last donation
- Meet the requirements stated in the travel, medical condition, medication, immunization and tattoo restrictions list.

Anyone that meets the above criteria and is looking for a way to celebrate National Blood Donor Month can contact the local ASBBC office at 643-7710 or 645-7737. Check out the ASBBC Facebook page for the latest blood drive schedule or to get information on organizing a blood drive for your unit or group.

For more information on the Armed Services Blood Program and donor eligibility, visit www.militaryblood.dod.mil.

Davis is the public affairs officer for the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa.

"Maintaining an adequate blood supply is a constant challenge requiring volunteer donors."

National Blood Donor Month



Donate blood, save 3 lives

For information on blood drive events, contact the Armed Services Blood Bank Center at 643-7710 or 643-7737 or visit the ASBBC Facebook page or www.militaryblood.dod.mil

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YouTube



www.youtube.com/3mefcpao

AROUND THE CORPS



The U.S. Marine Corps Ceremonial Guard Company, part of the president's escort, marches in the inauguration parade for the 57th Presidential Inauguration Jan. 21. More than 2,100 service members, with representatives from each branch, marched in the parade, with approximately 5,000 personnel supporting inaugural festivities.

Photo by E.J. Hersom

Marines participate in Integrated Training Exercise 3-1 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Training Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Jan. 22. The ITX is the training exercise where Marines rehearse real-world scenarios prior to deploying. The Marines are with 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephany Richards



OKINAWA MARINE

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CENTRAL BUREAU

Camp Foster

DSN 645-9335

NORTHERN BUREAU

Camp Hansen

DSN 623-7229

SOUTHERN BUREAU

Camp Kinser

DSN 637-1092

Camp Butler fire takes top honors

Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Butler Fire and Emergency Services received the 2011 Large Fire Department of the Year award for the Marine Corps Jan. 17.

"This is not my award," said Scott S. Minakami, the regional fire chief for the department. "It's the entire department's award."

Before Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, the commanding general of MCIPAC and MCB Camp Butler, presented the award, he spoke of the department's high-quality service, which earned it the award.

"Today is a big day, and hopefully you are all standing a little bit taller," said Talleri. "You have a reason to smile because you have accomplished something that the rest of the Marine Corps and your community will be both jealous and proud of."

Talleri added that it was an honor to present the award and recognize all of the department's accomplishments.

"Whether it is disasters here in your country, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, training or educating, your contribution is so significant,



Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri presents the 2011 Large Fire Department of the Year award to Scott S. Minakami at Camp Foster Jan. 17. Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Butler Fire and Emergency Services received two major awards for its accomplishments in two years. Talleri is the commanding general of MCIPAC and MCB Camp Butler, and Minakami is the regional fire chief for the department.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Brianna Turner

and I don't think there is a better organization out there," said Talleri. "I am so proud of you."

The department previously

won the Fire Prevention of the Year for the Marine Corps award in 2010, which recognized it as the best at preventing fires in the Marine Corps.

"These are two major awards two years in a row," said Hideaki Tomimoto, a fire captain with the department. "It is an honor for all of us."

Winning this award was especially meaningful to the department because of the multinational teamwork required to earn the award overseas, according to Minakami.

"This award shows the amount of teamwork we have," said Minakami. "We have broken the barrier in my eyes. We have a few chiefs from the U.S., but all of our firefighters are host nation firefighters. We were brought up in multinational and different cultures, but we work together so well that none of that matters."

While there is plenty of pride within the department, it does not mean it will rest on its laurels.

"As I talk to all of the members of the team there is one thing they have in common — they all want to get better," said Minakami. "They always tell me that it is good that people are recognizing the department, but they can always do more. It is so inspiring to see the drive all of these men have."

BRIEFS

Off Limits Establishments

Off-limits establishments are identified for all status of forces agreement personnel attached to or accompanying III Marine Expeditionary Force/Marine Corps Installations Pacific personnel on Okinawa. This includes all military members, civilian personnel (including contractors), and all family members in accordance with III MEF/MCIPAC Order 1620:

- Samurai King
- Stoner's Den
- Ground Tobacco Shop
- Jah Reggae Shop
- Bon Bon Dou
- Bar Sakura
- Tokyo Syoten Bookstores
- Yasu Ichi Bookstore
- AMS
- Butterfly
- High Times
- OM's Herb Shop
- Soft Cream
- Hotel Takahara
- Yoshihara Red Light District

RESERVE OPPORTUNITIES

The Marine Corps direct affiliation program is designed to help eligible first-term Marines transition into Marine Forces Reserve upon completion of active-duty service by providing Marines with health care benefits, allowing Marines to choose a duty station, and giving corporals and below an additional 60 points toward their composite scores for promotion. Eligible Marines include:

First-term active-duty enlisted Marines who have been denied further service and are eligible for honorable discharge

First-term active-duty company-grade officers not offered or declining career designation and approved for a reserve commission.

For more details, call 622-6004.

ENLISTED RETENTION SURVEY

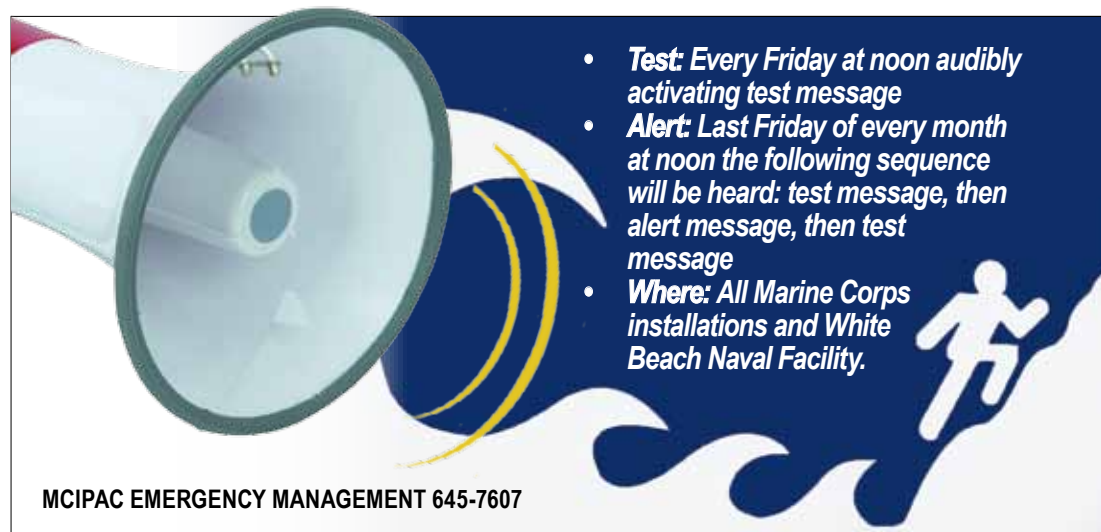
The Marine Corps is currently conducting a survey of enlisted Marines that have an end of active service between Oct. 1 and Sept. 30, 2014. This survey gives participants the opportunity to express levels of satisfaction with certain aspects of the Corps and military lifestyle, as well as what factors and incentives have the greatest influence on remaining in the Corps, or leaving active service.

Participation is voluntary, but must be completed before Feb. 28 to have an impact on retention incentives and policies.

The survey can be found at www.manpower.usmc.mil/application.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an email to okinawamarine.mcbf.fct@usmc.mil, or fax your request to 645-3803. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Friday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

Tsunami Warning System Testing



MCIPAC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT 645-7607

Every Friday at noon, beginning Feb. 1, the following bilingual announcement of the tsunami warning test will be heard across all Marine Corps installations and White Beach Naval Facility: "The following is a test of the tsunami warning system, this is only a test," followed by an audible tone lasting 15 seconds. The test will conclude by announcing, "this concludes the test of the tsunami warning system. Test complete."

At noon, on the last Friday of each month, the test of the tsunami warning alert, which would signify a real-world warning, will include the test notification above, followed by, "Okinawa is under a tsunami warning, mandatory evacuation of all facilities in low-lying coastal areas has been ordered. All personnel should seek safe haven immediately." The alert will be followed by a three-minute tone, then the test notification again, ending with, "test complete."

USAID, III MEF discuss disaster relief options

Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP COURTNEY — Marines with III Marine Expeditionary Force participated in a joint humanitarian operations course Jan. 17-18 at Hashmarks, the staff noncommissioned officers' club on Camp Courtney.

The course ensures Marines are prepared to coordinate future humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations with the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance. It also ensures that HADR responses take place within the parameters of existing policies and funding.

Members of the III MEF command element, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade and 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit participated in the course.

The military liaison team with USAID provided the instruction.

"When we started the class, we asked how many Marines had direct experience with HADR operations, and approximately 50 percent raised their hands," said Lt. Col. Lee W. Suttee, a military liaison team member

with USAID. "So, they are already effective, and they were effective just a month ago in the Philippines. What this training does is bring the Marines who don't have experience up to speed and smooth out the process for all of them."

The course especially benefitted the Marines of 3rd MEB during their process of standing up the brigade's staff, according to Suttee.

"Part of standing up 3rd MEB's staff is training it on core missions, and one of those missions is disaster relief," said Suttee. "The course highlights how (this process) works and helps the Marines envision how the response will play out. In my experience, it is always easier to accomplish something when you can picture how it is supposed to go."

The class addressed problems frequently encountered during HADR operations and the lessons learned during recent relief operations through lectures, presentations and small-group discussions.

"The class helps (the Marines) understand that foreign disaster response is very different," said Yonahton A. Bock, the military

humanitarian assistance advisor with the military liaison team, USAID. "The course shows you how to avoid problems and ensures you are providing only unique capabilities to USAID's lead during relief efforts."

The training helped the Marines understand nuances such as the requirement to provide only capabilities and unique support to the relief effort that can not be provided by civilian entities, with the exception of support that directly saves lives.

The course also discussed ideal response timelines, best practices for selecting, forwarding and preparing donated goods for distribution, the relationship between the U.S. military and coordinating agencies such as the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, the extent of command discretion during HADR operations, and prioritizing relief efforts.

"One of the most important aspects of relief operations is working with the mission-tasking matrix to validate and prioritize DOD missions," said René Van Slate, an advisor to U.S. Pacific Command with USAID and Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance.

Van Slate recently used the mission-tasking matrix in coordination with III MEF during HADR operations this past December in response to Typhoon Bopha in the Republic of the Philippines.

"We used the system for every flight, and it brought clarity to operations allowing the Marines to complete their mission," Van Slate said.

"It is integral to the success of the U.S. government as a whole that we respond to natural disasters as a unified, coordinated force. We represent the U.S. people (during disaster relief operations). Well-coordinated responses demonstrate our commitment," added Van Slate.

The course teaches approximately 5,000 students annually at 100 courses held at various combatant commands, schools and agency headquarters.

"We empower individuals to go back to their senior leadership and brief them that they have the tools to be effective," said Bock. "In the end, the military and government agencies are better prepared to work together to provide relief when needed, and that's the most important takeaway."

Logistics Marines perfect field communications

Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 4 are conducting a communications exercise Jan. 7 - Feb. 1 at Camp Foster.

The exercise helps prepare the unit for future operations throughout the region.

"What we are doing here today is preparing to support future exercises and operations 3rd Marine Logistics Group is involved with," said 2nd Lt. Duc M. Pham, communications officer with Combat Logistics Battalion 4, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd MLG, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "Everything we do here today, will prepare us to provide support no matter the location or environment in this region."

The exercise is critical for the Marines and helps them see the bigger picture, according to Pham.

"I want my Marines to see the broader picture of support and what we do in communications," said Pham. "With exercises like these, everyone gets to see what others are doing and it becomes a much bigger team effort."

The exercise involves many moving parts and requires constant communication and teamwork to be successful, according to Pham. Rehearsing tasks such as setting up field radio operations and installing communications assets to command posts are critical since communications are one of the first assets Marines operating in an expeditionary environment need.

The CLB-4 Marines conducted their duties for a portion of the training in full mission oriented protective posture gear. Wearing the gear helped the Marines gain operational proficiency in continuing mission-essential tasks while in a simulated environment contaminated by chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear elements.



Pfc. Shawn H. Duncan assembles a power source for a communications exercise site Jan. 16 at Camp Foster. The purpose of the exercise is to prepare the Marines of Combat Logistics Battalion 4 for future operations throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Duncan is an electrician with CLB-4, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry

"The purpose of this is to show the Marines that we train how we fight," said Staff Sgt. Leon R. Hatcher, a supply administration and operations specialist with the battalion. "We conducted our training today in different levels of MOPP gear, which will prepare the Marines for when we do go into the field."

Not only does the training prepare the unit as a whole, but it also shows the newer Marines what to expect outside of a garrison setting and how a unit operates in a field environment.

"I think this exercise is great for the newer Marines in order to give them the hands-on-training

they need to get them prepared for when we go into the field," said Lance Cpl. Jaleesa J. Collins, a field radio operator with the battalion. "It also serves as refresher and sustainment training for the Marines who have been here longer."

Because of this exercise, the Marines are now confident in their skills and are sure they can provide critical communication, command and control, according to Pham.

"It is good for the Marines to see how the exercises work here in Okinawa," said Pham. "Our work here is critical, and without us, there would be no command and control."

Medical exercises begin in Cambodia



U.S. Navy Lt. Kim Nguyen, right, speaks with Royal Cambodian Army Lt. Gen. Sovan Ly at the Phnom Penh Preah Ket Melea Hospital Jan. 22 during Cambodia Medical Exercise 13;1. The U.S. service members will work alongside Royal Cambodia Armed Forces medical personnel during subject-matter expert exchanges to increase Cambodian and U.S. medical capabilities, capacity and interoperability. The U.S. and Cambodian armed forces have conducted medical exercises together since 2007. Nguyen is a surgeon with 3rd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Ly is the director of the hospital. Photo by Lance Cpl. Alyssa N. Hoffacker

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“Being stationed in a foreign nation presents unique tax challenges, especially for SOFA personnel who get married to a citizen of their host nation,” said Morrison. “The centers’ Marines are trained how to handle foreign earned income and assist those who lack a Social Security number and need an (individual taxpayer identification number).”

The clerks can also assist customers in meeting the June 15 deadline for filing taxes for military personnel on duty and U.S. citizens living overseas.

“Our Marines have been trained to address military-specific tax issues, such as combat zone tax benefits, the effect of the earned income tax credit, and federal and state tax returns,” said Morrison. “Our Marines are also able to assist SOFA personnel and their dependents with applying for an individual taxpayer identification number.”

Customers must provide all tax materials to the tax center, including military identification cards, Social Security cards, the current year’s

tax package, wage and earning statements in the form of W-2, W-2G and 1099-R forms from all employers, interest and dividend statements from banks, a copy of the previous year’s federal and state returns if available, and bank routing and account numbers for direct deposit of refunds. Other information and materials may be required on a case-by-case basis, according to Morrison.

Sometimes people have a hard time filing their taxes due to time and various other reasons, explained Cpl. Eric J. Marcinkowski, a Camp Foster tax center clerk.

“The tax centers are here to assist customers with managing tax information, so everyone meets their deadline,” Marcinkowski added.

Starting Feb. 4, patrons may walk-in from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, or schedule appointments between 3-5 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays.

The centers will be open until June 15.

For more information, call Camp Foster’s tax center at 645-4520 or Camp Hansen’s tax center at 623-4177.

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reducing preventable mishaps.”

The III MEF and MCIPAC safety offices will market safe driving practices through promotional banners, public service announcements and traffic infomercials.

“The main goal is to be a deterrent,” said Staff Sgt. Robert J. Hubauer, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of accident investigation, PMO, MCB Camp Butler. “We want people to know that we are here to enforce safe driving and hope that they will take note and make the right decisions.”

Safety is a continuous issue, and it is always good to promote new ways of keeping everyone safe, according to Jim Maldonado, the III MEF safety officer.

“Texting (and talking) on cell phones while driving is one of the biggest causes of accidents on Okinawa,” said Maldonado.

Driving while distracted or impaired in any way reduces your reaction time, which increases the level of danger on the road, according to Hubauer.

“This campaign is important because any time someone gets behind the wheel while distracted or impaired, they are running the risk of seriously injuring themselves or others,” said Hubauer. “It is especially important to be mindful while driving out in town, as the roads can be very busy and are different than what individuals are used to in the U.S.” While it is important to be vigilant while driving in the community, it is equally as important to practice safe driving on base.

“If someone takes their eyes off the road for two seconds, anything can happen,” said Maldonado. “A car could pull out in front of you, slam on the brakes, or someone could walk into the street. On base, we are constantly passing schools and there are children crossing the roads all the time, so we cannot afford to be distracted.”

III MEF and MCIPAC officials have high hopes the campaign will make everyone more cognizant with the rules of the road and result in a reduction in vehicle mishaps overall, according to Jacobs.

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training and competition.

“Since 1901, the competition-in-arms program has provided the Marine Corps with skilled and experienced marksmen necessary to support a productive marksmanship training program,” said CWO Scott W. Richards, the captain for the MCB Butler team.

The competitors in this region are Marines stationed in Okinawa or mainland Japan who have qualified as a sharpshooter or above with the service rifle.

“This competition attracts some of the best shooters in the Marine Corps,” said Gunnery Sgt. Larry J. Arnold, the coach for the MCB Butler team. “The Marines must get into a rhythm when on the shooting line to stay ahead of the competition.”

During the first week, competitors receive classroom instruction to enhance individual marksmanship proficiency, establish battle site zeroes, participate in dry-fire and live-fire training to develop shooting positions, conduct individual practice, and compete in preliminary matches.

“The competitors receive marksmanship instruction from some of the best marksmen in the Marine Corps,” said Arnold. “They also learn about the history of the competition-in-arms program and have a chance to complete their annual rifle and pistol qualifications.”

Competitors are instructed on the rules of the competition to include authorized equipment and shooting positions, according to Arnold.

Range personnel and representatives from the Marine Corps shooting

team enforce the rules. The individual and team that abides by the rules and produces the highest score are crowned the victors.

On most teams, there are members who have competed in the matches before and some who have not, according to Lance Cpl. Melissa A. Delaguila, a shooter on the MCB Butler team. Regardless of experience in the matches, shooters and coaches share past experiences to help one another be the best shooter possible.

“I am very excited to start the competition and learn new techniques for shooting,” said Delaguila. “The little tricks I have learned so far I can already tell will help me in the competition.”

Competition in general is healthy, promotes esprit de corps, and encourages teamwork, according to Richards. The Marine Corps supports and encourages participation in a variety of competitions throughout the year.

“Being more proficient in marksmanship and shooting in this competition has many benefits,” said Richards. “Some benefits include improving one’s composite score for promotion, to the more important ability of accurately engaging the enemy and saving your life and the lives of those Marines to your left and right.”

The division matches will continue until Jan. 30 when the final stages of shooting conclude, and winners in both individual and team categories are announced. Marines finishing in the top 10 percent are afforded the opportunity to compete against the top 10 percent of shooters from the other division matches in the Marine Corps championships at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., later this year.



An AV-8B Harrier prepares to land on the field carrier landing strip at Ie Shima training facility during bulk refueling training Jan. 16. Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 prepared the landing strip to allow aircraft with Marine Attack Squadron 513 to conduct field carrier landing practice while MWSS-172 refueled the harriers. VMA-513 currently has aircraft attached to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, which is the aviation combat element of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. MWSS-172 is a part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Marines refuel Harriers for rapid



Bulk fuel specialists refuel an AV-8B Harrier during bulk refueling training Jan. 16 at Ie Shima training facility. The squadron is preparing for various operations and exercises in support of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. The bulk fuel specialists are with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. The aircraft is with Marine Attack Squadron 513 which is currently attached to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, 1st MAF, III MEF.

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Terence G. Brady

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As AV-8B Harriers rapidly take off and land, Marines on the ground provide the critical support to keep them in the air, ensuring mission accomplishment no matter the environment.

Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted bulk refueling training with AV-8B Harrier aircraft Jan. 16 at Ie Shima training facility.

"The Marines performed well during the training prior to the start of flight operations," said Capt. Aleah A. Larson, the aviation operations company commander with MWSS-172. "We had a lot of new Marines arrive over the past few months, and the training was a good opportunity for the experienced Marines to teach the junior and newer Marines more about their (military occupational specialties)."

Training at Ie Shima allows the squadron

**"We ma
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Pfc. Colby J. Heavner takes a fuel sample during bulk refueling training Jan. 16 at Ie Shima training facility. The samples are used to test the fuel potency and check for contaminants to ensure the aircraft receive high-quality fuel. Heavner is a bulk fuel specialist with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

d takeoffs, landings at Ie Shima

to simulate the type of environments it will encounter while supporting flight operations in the Asia-Pacific region.

"It is imperative that we train with the units

**ake the Marine Aircraft Wing
ionary. Our Marines and equipment
e to be deployed to austere locations
operate with minimal additional support."**

Capt. Aleah A. Larson

we are going to support to build a good working relationship and rehearse and develop our procedures," said Larson.

The squadron performed its refueling training on Harriers with the "Flying Nightmares" of Marine Attack Squadron 513, which currently has aircraft attached to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, the aviation combat element of the 31st MEU.

"The landing strip on Ie Shima is simulating the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, (to help

train) the pilots, so they can qualify to land on carriers while deployed to other regions or aboard naval vessels," said Sgt. John Paul A. Runge, a bulk fuel specialist and fuel team leader with MWSS-172.

Prior to refueling the jets, MWSS-172 Marines filter and inspect the aviation fuel to ensure the aircraft are not receiving contaminated or diluted fuel.

A water detector is used at every refueling point, according to Runge.

"We want to go above and beyond with the quality of fuel we are providing because the aircraft we are working with are valuable assets," said Runge.

On top of controlling and adjusting the fuel's potency, the Marines are sent out on the landing strip to look for foreign objects and debris.

"Essentially, we have to clear the landing strip for any and all objects that can potentially produce static or can get caught in the jets' engines," said Runge. The training evolution as a whole is overseen by pilots who are qualified to control landings.

"It is important for us to be able to control the aircraft landing, so we can make sure the Harriers land safely and track trends in the landing and refueling process," said Maj. Andrew P. Diviney, a pilot and landing signal officer with VMA-513. "Our pilots only have a 14-day window to perform the landing training or else they will have to perform the entire syllabus again."

Performing their primary tasks while integrating tasks from different elements of the training proves the Marines' ability to be versatile in any aircraft-landing environment.

"We make the Marine aircraft wing expeditionary," said Larson. "Our Marines and equipment are able to be deployed to austere locations and operate with minimal additional support."

The Marines and their capabilities are organic to the wing, allowing the Marine Corps to deploy air assets in support of the ground combat element all the way to the forward edge of the battle area without needing an established logistics base or relying on external agencies to support, Larson added.

Youth baseball players for the Kin Town Shonen Eagles participate in a baseball clinic held Jan. 19 at Camp Hansen. The clinic was held to advance the techniques of the youth baseball players through interaction with professional players. During the clinic, the youth players worked on perfecting their batting, fielding and pitching techniques. The Kin Town Shonen Eagles were one of seven youth teams that attended the clinic.



Shota Ishimine watches as a youth baseball player hits a ball during a baseball clinic Jan. 19 at Camp Hansen. Ishimine is a professional baseball player with the Chiba Lotte Marines.

Youth baseball players learn from professionals

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The pitcher fires a fastball over the plate, hoping to sneak in an early strike, but the batter blasts the ball into a gap in the outfield and sprints around the bases.

Japanese professional baseball players from the Nippon Professional Baseball League held a baseball clinic at Camp Hansen Jan. 19 for young Japanese and American baseball players.

The clinic was held to advance the techniques of the young baseball players attending, according to Col. Stephen B. Lewallen Jr. the commanding officer of III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF.

Attendees included seven Okinawa and American youth baseball teams.

"This is a great opportunity for the youth

players to advance their skills and interact with other teams in a positive way," said Tetsuya Ikehara, the coach for the Kin Town Victory Kids.

The youth baseball teams practiced their batting, pitching and fielding techniques during the clinic.

"The clinic was very fun," said Banna Ginoza, a player for the Victory Kids. "I learned a lot from the (professional baseball players) and hope to be able to use what I learned in future games."

The youth players spent several hours advancing their abilities to make them better baseball players for the future.

"The children who attended were very talented," said Shota Ishimine, a professional baseball player for the Chiba Lotte Marines. "I wouldn't be surprised to see them play professionally in the near future."

A closing ceremony was held at the conclusion of the clinic to thank the professional players for coming out and passing on their knowledge and experience to the youth baseball players.

"We are hoping to make this an annual event to help strengthen the relationship with the local teams and help youth players who want to become professionals better their skills," said Lewallen.

With friendships formed, the teams left with confidence that their newly gained skills will help better them in future games.

"It was a great experience for everyone," said Ikehara. "Events like this not only strengthen the relationship between us and the Americans, but it also strengthens the motivation of the young players. This is our first interaction with the American teams and after speaking with the other coaches, it won't be our last."

Singaporeans, Marines maintain readiness

Cpl. James Sauter

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

For a few weeks, the pristine waters and clear skies of Kaneohe Bay were more than just a tourist's dream as two countries' highly skilled militaries took to the air and sea to train together.

Members of the Singapore Armed Forces' Naval Diving Unit and Marines with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion sharpened their diving and amphibious skills Jan. 7-18 at Marine Corps Base Hawaii during Exercise Sandfisher 2013.

"This exercise is really to help build interoperability and techniques between the two of us," said Capt. Brian Lusczynski, a platoon commander with 3rd Reconnaissance Bn., 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "The Corps' skill sets shifted toward the demands of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, namely deserts. Because we've deployed there so much, we've had to limit our training in amphibious reconnaissance skills."

The SAF members and Marines conducted bilateral dive training Jan. 9 that focused on diving techniques to gain a better grasp on how two different militaries accomplish the same mission.

"It's a tremendous experience to be working with the Singaporeans because their team leader has more than 12 years of experience as a diver," said Staff Sgt. King Ritchie, dive team leader with the battalion. "He's been more than willing to share his experience and knowledge, and that has been very helpful to our dive training."

During the dive training, two-man teams navigated through the water toward a buoy 500 yards from the shore and back. The teams swam along the surface on their backs toward the buoy, but on the return swim, navigated underwater, using

nothing but an underwater compass and depth gauge.

"It was really good to get input from the Singaporean divers," said Lance Cpl. Cody Wurdelman, a reconnaissance man with the battalion. "What I learned from them helped when I veered off course a little bit today."

The service members also conducted surface swimming, small-craft maneuver, special purpose insertion and extraction rigging, and helocast training. After pushing out an inflatable boat from the rear of a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter, the service members exited the helicopter in midair.

"Our focus was on learning to operate together while refining our standard operating procedures."

Cpl. Jeff Sanders

"It was exciting to learn new techniques with the Singaporeans, since they are such a close-knit group," said Cpl. Jeff Sanders, a reconnaissance man with the battalion. "Our focus was on learning to operate together while refining our standard operating procedures."

Following Sandfisher, the service members returned to their home stations, with the reconnaissance Marines better prepared to execute operations throughout the Asia-Pacific region during their upcoming deployment with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

"In preparation for deployment with the 31st MEU, we have to train and understand how to dive and operate our equipment," Lusczynski said. "These amphibious techniques are things we train to do, and we're honing those techniques now to support the overall mission of the MEU. This exercise was instrumental in our preparation."

Singapore sailors and U.S. Marines are suspended from a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter while conducting special purpose insertion and extraction rigging Jan. 22 on Marine Corps Base Hawaii during Exercise Sandfisher 2013. The sailors are with the Singapore Armed Forces' Naval Diving Unit. The Marines are with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Suzanna Lapi



Singapore sailors and reconnaissance Marines signal to their instructors that they are ready to begin the underwater dive portion of a training evolution during Exercise Sandfisher 2013 on Marine Corps Base Hawaii Jan. 9. The sailors are with the Singapore Armed Forces' Naval Diving Unit. The Marines are with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Cpl. James Sauter

Analyst recognized for outstanding service

Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

“As long as we ensure we have communication, this command will exceed any challenge within the Marine Corps,” said Patricia H. Dunbar.

Dunbar, a key factor in Marine Corps Installations Pacific’s success during the past 27 years, was recognized for her vital role during a ceremony Jan. 18 at Camp Foster’s headquarters, where she was presented the Meritorious Civilian Service Award by Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, the commanding general of MCIPAC and Marine Corps Base Camp Butler.

The Meritorious Civilian Service Award is the Department of Defense’s second-highest career-level award.

“The most important reason we present this award is to recognize those who perform at a higher level with great dedication

and performance in front of peers, family, subordinates and leaders,” said Talleri. “When I came to this command, Ms. Dunbar was introduced to me as an expert in manpower analysis. She is truly a selfless person and has gained tremendous respect from her superiors and peers.”

The award is presented to individuals whose contributions are of an exceptionally noteworthy and significant nature to the DOD. Dunbar, the chief management analyst in the management assistance office, G-1, personnel, administration and manpower, MCIPAC, received the award for her performance from January 2010 to November 2012.

“I feel humbled and surprised that I am receiving this award,” said Dunbar. “I try to be a good (employee) and to give everything that I have to the command. I’m just humbled that they thought enough of my performance to present me



Major Gen. Peter J. Talleri presents the Meritorious Civilian Service Award medal to Patricia H. Dunbar Jan. 18 at Camp Foster’s building one headquarters. Dunbar received the award for her successes and dedication in working for Marine Corps Installations Pacific throughout January 2010 to November 2012. Dunbar is the chief management analyst in the management assistance office, G-1, personnel, administration and manpower. Talleri is the commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Butler. Photo by Lance Cpl. Elizabeth Case

with such an award.”

All career civilian employees of the federal government are eligible and undergo a rigorous evaluation process and awards board prior to selection.

“It’s outstanding that Dunbar is receiving this award,” said Curtis J. Kozlesky, the assistant chief of staff, G-1, MCIPAC.

“She’s a true professional

and is recognized as the subject matter expert in working with manpower analysis throughout the Marine Corps.”

Dunbar has received numerous awards for her service and job performance throughout the years.

“Ms. Dunbar’s personal initiative and steadfast devotion to her profession uphold the highest

traditions of the U.S. civil service and significantly contribute to overall success within the community while supporting the workforce,” said Kozlesky. “She provided sound, logical, strategic manpower support and assistance to III Marine Expeditionary Force and MCIPAC senior leaders at commanding generals’ and camp commanders’ meetings, to include on-site visits throughout the Asia-Pacific region.”

Although the award is an individual achievement, Dunbar feels that the award does not represent her own personal work, but the combined team effort of her office.

“I think a large factor in (receiving this award) is the camaraderie that we have above and beyond (our working relationship),” said Dunbar. “They have allowed me to be a part of this family and learn and grow with them.”

Marines clear buildings, detain prisoners, establish action drills



Lance Cpl. Cameron D. Barr motions for a hostile role player to turn around during military operations on urban terrain training Jan. 16 at combat town in the Central Training Area near Camp Hansen. The Marines rehearsed clearing buildings of enemies, interacting with the local populace, and providing security in urban terrain during the training. Barr is an AAV crewman with Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson

Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

“Set!” yells a fire team leader as he waits outside a doorway. The Marine behind him grabs his shoulder and gives the command, “Go!” The four-man team rushes into the room, clearing it of enemies.

Marines with Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, trained for military operations on urban terrain Jan. 16 at Combat Town in the Central Training Area near Camp Hansen.

The Marines rehearsed clearing buildings, detaining and handling mock enemy prisoners of war, establishing casualty collection points, and conducted immediate action drills.

At combat town, each building presents the Marines with unpredictable layouts – similar to what Marines would experience in urban combat operations, according to 1st Lt. Kevin J. Corpuz, an assault amphibious vehicle officer with the battalion. The rooms are filled with furniture, windows and stairways to enhance realism while training.

“The majority of the Marines have a basic understanding of (urban operations), but this training brought them together and allowed them to build on what they’ve learned and fix their mistakes for when it really counts,” said Sgt. Thomas R. Hughes, a basic tank and AAV crewman with the battalion.

The Marines rehearsed different routines on proper room clearing to enhance their proficiency.

“We entered the buildings several times using different combinations of team members in order to achieve familiarity while working with each other,” said Lance Cpl. Justin A. Phillips, an AAV crewman with the battalion. “Morale remained high throughout the training.”

During after-action reviews, the Marines shared successes and identified ways to improve their skills in the urban terrain.

“Positive comments included the use of realistic scenarios and complicated buildings, which provided a training challenge, allowing us to improvise on the fly, and made us communicate during movement,” said Phillips.

The Marines also identified and addressed areas in need of improvement, such as movement on stairwells, interacting with the local urban populace, and the use of the M249 squad automatic weapons during room clearing operations.

“Always being prepared to perform real-world urban operations is important for every Marine,” said Corpuz.

The Marines enjoyed their experience at combat town and will take valuable lessons away from the training, according to Hughes.

“I felt that the hands-on experience was very enjoyable for everyone, and the classes and drills are critical for operating in urban terrain,” said Hughes. “It’s good for the Marines that have never deployed to learn the basic fundamentals. Now they will have the fundamental experience and knowledge needed to operate successfully in an urban environment.”

In Theaters Now

JANUARY 25 - 31

FOSTER

TODAY Zero Dark Thirty (R), 6 p.m.; Gangster Squad (R), 10 p.m.

SATURDAY Parental Guidance (PG), noon; Zero Dark Thirty (R), 3 and 7 p.m.

SUNDAY Parental Guidance (PG), noon; Broken City (PG13), 4 and 7 p.m.

MONDAY Jack Reacher (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY This is 40 (R), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY This is 40 (R), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Broken City (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY The Last Stand (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Ice Age 4 (PG), noon; Brave (PG), 3 p.m.; Gangster Squad (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Paranorman (PG), 1 p.m.; Madagascar 3 (PG), 4 p.m.; The Last Stand (R), 7 p.m.

MONDAY Gangster Squad (R), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Zero Dark Thirty (R), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Gangster Squad (R), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Broken City (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Brave (PG), 2 p.m.; Premium Rush (R), 6 p.m.

SUNDAY Brave (PG), 2 p.m. The Expendables 2 (R), 6 p.m.

MONDAY Wreck-It Ralph (PG), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Hit and Run (R), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Broken City (R), 4 and 7 p.m.

SUNDAY Jack Reacher (PG13), 4 p.m.; The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG13), 7 p.m.

MONDAY Zero Dark Thirty (R), 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Closed

THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Skyfall (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY Rise of the Guardians (PG), 3 p.m.; Red Dawn (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY Rise of the Guardians (PG), 3 p.m.; Red Dawn (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Broken City (R), 3 and 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY Zero Dark Thirty (R), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Argo (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

SATURDAY House at the End of the Street (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.

SUNDAY This is 40 (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY This is 40 (R), 7 and 10 p.m.

SATURDAY This is 40 (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Cloud Atlas (R), 2 p.m.; Paranormal Activity 4 (R), 5:30 p.m.

MONDAY Broken City (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

TUESDAY Broken City (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Fun Size (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Gangster Squad (R), 7 p.m.

THEATER DIRECTORY

CAMP FOSTER 645-3465
KADENA AIR BASE 634-1869
(USO NIGHT) 632-8781
MCAS FUTENMA 636-3890
(USO NIGHT) 636-2113
CAMP COURTNEY 622-9616
CAMP HANSEN 623-4564
(USO NIGHT) 623-5011
CAMP KINSER 637-2177
CAMP SCHWAB 625-2333
(USO NIGHT) 625-3834

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing, visit www.shopmyexchange.com.



SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

For more information or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

ROBSKI'S ULTIMATE GAME SHOW - FEB. 17

• The SMP will be hosting Robski's Ultimate Game Show at the Camp Schwab Theater Feb. 17 from 8-9:30 p.m. Join the fun for your chance to win great prizes!

SMP BUSHIDO MUD RUN - MARCH 30

• Are you ready to challenge both your physical and mental ability by completing a rigorous and empowering obstacle? This year the SMP will host a Bushido Mud Run! Join us March 30th for an unforgettable experience. Are you brave enough? Details coming soon.

Mention of any company in this notice does not constitute endorsement by the Marine Corps.

TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

"Which core value is the mental, moral and physical strength ingrained in Marines?"

See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

This uniform earned Marines the nickname "leatherneck," and is the oldest in continuous use. Which is it?

ANSWER: Dress blues

日本語

Japanese phrase of the week:

"Kiotsukete."

(pronounced: kee-oh-tsu-keh-teh)

It means, "Take care."

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

"To nurture your mind for good, you need belief coupled with action."



We become what we believe in

Lt. Hernan Pinilla

CHAPLAIN, MARINE WING HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON-1,
1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

Personally, I always maintain excellent health and wellness. Yet, on a sunny day last fall, I found myself in the emergency room being rescued from a stroke. The skilled medical personnel worked diligently to save my life, while my mind flooded with many emotions – like sadness because it might be curtains for me, and I would miss my family. Although it would be a great joy because I would be on my way to meet my God.

On one hand, the natural response to my troubles could have been to "go negative" – focus on my troubles and blame God. On the other hand, I found that by centering on God's active involvement in my life, my mind was able to reframe the situation and discover clues of God's activity. By looking to overcome the problem, I was able to focus on small victories and build upon them. Focusing on these small victories was of greater

assistance than focusing on the problem. Centering on God allowed my mind to freely meditate on his teachings and to offer thanks. The result of this exercise was an increased level of hope and resiliency throughout the ordeal. I was released from the hospital four days later and had a fantastic recovery!

I share this personal story with you to encourage you in your spiritual formation. We know our mind is a powerful instrument that can be used for either good or evil. To nurture your mind for good, you need belief coupled with action; a belief that God is already active in your life and is ready to interact with you and to look for strengths within yourself and use them.

God has already placed hope and resilience within you. If you are not sure how to discover or act on these things, allow me to give you some ideas: begin and end each day with thankfulness for the very breath of life; fill your mind with good things; do something kind for someone daily; join a small group or bible study. Go be a blessing to someone today!

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS,
CALL 645-2501 OR VISIT WWW.MARINES.MIL/UNIT/MCBJAPAN/PAGES/AROUNDMCBJ/CHAPEL.ASPX